

Appl. No. 09/886,893
Atty. Docket No. 8591
Amdt. Dated October 4, 2004
Reply to Final Office Action of July 14, 2004
Customer No. 27752

REMARKS

Claims 1, 4-6, and 8-26 are pending in the instant application. Claim 1 has been amended to incorporate former dependent Claim 3, which has been cancelled. Claim 5 has been amended to delete a duplication of the words "wherein said." Claim 7 has been cancelled. Claim 8 has been amended to depend from independent Claim 1. No new matter has been added. Consequently, entry of these changes is believed to be in order and is respectfully requested.

Obviousness Double Patenting

The Examiner has rejected Claims 17-20, 25, and 26 for obviousness-type double patenting over Claims 1-7 of co-pending Application No. 09/886,740; over Claims 1 and 10 of co-pending Application No. 09/886,828; over Claims 1-20 of co-pending Application No. 09/886,830; and over Claims 1, 3-7, 10-13, and 21-29 of co-pending Application No. 09/886,831. Pursuant to M.P.E.P. §1490, Applicants enclose an appropriate Terminal Disclaimer compliant with 35 U.S.C. §253 and 37 C.F.R. §3.73.

Rejection Under 35 USC 103

Claims 1, 4-6, and 23 have been rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Benson, et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,628,097). Applicants have amended Claim 1 to include the limitation of Claim 3 which the Examiner has stated would be allowable if rewritten to include all of the limitations of the intervening claims. Claims 4-6 and 23 all depend upon amended Claim 1.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants sincerely thank the Examiner for allowing Claims 11-15, 17-20, and 24-26.

Conclusion

In light of the above remarks, it is requested that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw the rejection under 35 USC 103(a). All pending claims, except for the withdrawn claims, contain the limitations which the Examiner has stated would be allowable. Early and favorable action in the case is respectfully requested.

Applicants have made an earnest effort to place their application in proper form and to distinguish the invention as now claimed from the applied references. In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of this application, entry of the amendments

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presented herein, and allowance of Claims 1, 4-6, 8, and 23 in addition to previously allowed claims 11-15, 17-20, and 24-26.

Respectfully submitted,
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